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TOM O'HALLERAN

1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

June 21, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Rising inflation is harming all Americans, and executive and Congressional action is urgently needed to support American families. I am pleased by recent reports that your Administration is looking into suspending the 18.4 cent federal gas tax, and I believe it is long past time to take this emergency step.

In February 2022, I introduced the Gas Prices Relief Act (H.R.6787), legislation that would temporarily suspend the 18.4 cent federal gas tax until January 1, 2023. This legislation would also direct the U.S. Treasury Department to use all applicable authorities to ensure that the 18.4 cent reduction is entirely passed along to consumers and does not line the coffers of oil and gas producers and retailers.

This dramatic and steady increase in the price of gasoline also disproportionately impacts Americans in rural and Tribal communities, who must drive longer distances to go to the grocery store, school, work, or see their doctor. When I introduced the Gas Prices Relief Act, the price of gas averaged \$3.49 a gallon. Since that time, with no notable federal action, gas prices have increased and are averaging at more than \$5.00 a gallon nationwide. Gas prices for Arizonans are even higher, with costs averaging \$5.36 a gallon throughout the state.

The rise in fuel prices has an even broader impact than simply higher prices for Americans when refueling their cars and trucks. Farmers are paying more for fuel, which drives up food and commodity prices. Shipping companies are also spending more to get their goods to the store, further driving up food and commodity prices.

Again, I am pleased to see that you are considering this proposal. Please let me know if I can be helpful as we seek to provide real and immediate relief to the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran".

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress